



TWO ICE CIRCLE
SAULT STE. MARIE, MI
(906)635-RINK

BIG BEAR

ARENA



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report
(July thru December 2025)

TAMMY L. GRAHAM, Recreation Director



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)




Recreation Agreements

The Recreation Division promotes recreation activities to Sault Tribe members in the seven-county service area through various agreements. These services are compiled in a Wellness and Recreation Guide that is updated seasonally. Statistics for the reporting period are below:

Little Bear East Arena (St. Ignace)

 **2,215** visits

Northern Michigan University (Marquette)

 **66** new memberships

Northern Lights YMCA (Escanaba)

 **1,649** visits

Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie)

 **2,096** visits

Manistique Pool (Manistique)

 **42** visits

Little Bear West Arena (Manistique)

 **88** visits



NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY



City Of Manistique



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)




Community Center-Based Approach Tenant Activity

The following events and activities were hosted for facility tenants and the adjoining childcare center:



Language & Culture Division

 The **Language and Culture Division** did not host any open gym or skating sessions.



Youth Education and Activities

 **YEA** held **13** gym sessions and **2** skating sessions.



Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Center

 The **Anne Suggitt Early Childhood Center** held **37** play sessions and **1** graduation celebration.

Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Sault Tribe Featured Events

The facility hosted the events and activities listed below with various Sault Tribe departments:

- 🐾 **August 20th** - Community Health's CPR Training (**18** staff)
- 🐾 **August 21st** - YEA's Circle Learning Celebration (**33** participants)
- 🐾 **September 17th** - Training Department Mental Health First Aid Class (**20** participants)
- 🐾 **September 25th** - Behavioral Health's Recovery Walk (**250** participants)
- 🐾 **October 7th** - Community Health's Harvest Your Health Fair (**301** attendees)
- 🐾 **October 18th** - Advocacy Resource Center's Halloween Party (**322** attendees)
- 🐾 **November 4th** - Community Health's Brunch and Learn (**6** attendees)
- 🐾 **November 12th** - Community Health's Canning and Preservation Workshop (**6** attendees)
- 🐾 **November 21st** - Community Health's Canning and Preservation Workshop (**5** attendees)
- 🐾 **December 13th** - Administration's Children's Christmas Party (**357** attendees)
- 🐾 **December 31st** - Language and Culture's New Year's Eve Powwow (**250** attendees)



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Community Featured Events

The facility hosted the events and activities listed below with various community organizations:

- 🐾 **July 1st to 3rd** - Dustin Manz Hockey Camp (**20** players)
- 🐾 **July 10th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**491** participants)
- 🐾 **July 23rd to 31st** - Learn To Skate Program (**6** skaters)
- 🐾 **July 25th to 28th** - Lakeshore Jr. Lumberjacks Hockey Retreat (**24** players)
- 🐾 **August 1st to 3rd** - Soo Eagles Tryouts Camp (**48** players)
- 🐾 **August 4th to 7th** - Great Lakes Hockey Camp (**60** players)
- 🐾 **August 11th to 28th** - All Styles, All Occasions Dance Program Auditions (**143** participants)
- 🐾 **August 14th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**453** participants)
- 🐾 **August 20th** - UPCAP VA Dental Presentation (**100** attendees)
- 🐾 **September 10th** - Soo Indians AAA Midgets vs. Soo Jr. Greyhounds (**150** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **September 11th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**433** participants)
- 🐾 **September 13th** - Soo Michigan Hockey Association Try Hockey Event (**25** participants and coaches)
- 🐾 **September 16th to 25th** - Development Skating Class (**6** skaters)
- 🐾 **October 4th & 5th** - LSSU ACHA Women's Hockey vs. Aquinas College (**300** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **October 4th & 5th** - Soo Indians AAA Midgets vs. St. Cecil Prep (**200** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **October 8th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**609** participants)
- 🐾 **October 10th to 12th** - Boo in the Soo Tournament #1 (**5,040** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **October 17th to 19th** - Boo in the Soo Tournament #2 (**7,080** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **October 24th to 26th** - Boo in the Soo Tournament #3 (**5,640** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **October 27th to 29th** - Sault High Blue Devils Hockey Tryouts (**22** players and **75** spectators)
- 🐾 **November 13th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**707** participants)
- 🐾 **November 14th & 15th** - Sault High Blue Devils Showcase (**1,000** players and spectators)



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Community Events and Activities (Continued):

- 🐾 **November 22nd & 23rd** - Sault High Blue Devils vs. Cadillac (**700** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **November 23rd** - MAHA Northern Lakes Jamboree (**225** players and **450** spectators)
- 🐾 **December 3rd** - LSSU Student Life Engagement Events (**55** participants)
- 🐾 **December 5th & 6th** - Sault High Blue Devils Showcase (**1,000** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **December 7th** - Skate with Santa Fundraiser (**72** skaters)
- 🐾 **December 10th** - Sault High Blue Devils vs. Gaylord (**100** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **December 11th** - Feeding America Food Distribution (**636** participants)
- 🐾 **December 12th** - Sault High Blue Devils vs. Traverse City West (**350** players and spectators)
- 🐾 **December 13th & 14th** - Soo Indians AAA Midgets vs. Victory Honda (**200** participants)
- 🐾 **December 14th** - Precision Edge Holiday Gathering (**70** attendees)
- 🐾 **December 20th** - Reina Recycling Holiday Gathering (**20** attendees)
- 🐾 **December 30th** - International House Party Holiday Skate (**80** attendees)



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Community Programs and Events

The Recreation Division community drop-in events, programs and activities statistics for the reporting period are listed below:

Drop In Basketball / Volleyball

268 Participants

149 Sault Tribe Members (55.6%)

119 Community Members (44.4%)



Public Skating

1,751 Participants

525 Sault Tribe Members (30.0%)

1,226 Community Members (70.0%)



Stick N Puck

390 Participants

114 Sault Tribe Members (29.2%)

276 Community Members (70.8%)

Totzones / Family Fun Nights

94 Participants



Pickleball

34 Participants

There were **103** parties, celebrations, meetings and trainings during the reporting period. The monthly breakdown is below:

July: **4** Birthday Parties, **2** Meetings, **3** Family Skates

August: **2** Birthday Parties, **1** Baby Shower, **1** Team Meal, **2** Meetings

September: **11** Birthday Parties, **1** Team Meal, **3** Meetings

October: **16** Birthday Parties, **1** Halloween Party, **1** Baby Shower, **1** Team Meal, **2** Meetings

November: **32** Birthday Parties, **1** Meeting

December: **14** Birthday Parties, **5** Family Skates



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Community Programs and Events (Continued)

During the reporting period, the Recreation Division facilitated the following sessions for various sports including private rentals and drop-in activities:

Basketball

22 Practices



Volleyball

28 Sessions



Pickleball

75 Sessions



Cheerleading

39 Sessions



Dance

93 Sessions



Boxing

22 Sessions



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Facility Administration

The **Administration Department** completed many tasks including the highlighted list below:

- ✓ Collaborated with Sault Tribe Behavioral Health to purchase equipment for prevention activities with grant funding
- ✓ Executed contract with Torque Boxing for new home of youth boxing
- ✓ Worked with the Purchasing Department to solicit bids to lease the Concessions area
- ✓ Worked with IT Security, Sault Tribe Law Enforcement and facility tenants to implement a new surveillance system, including contract execution
- ✓ Reviewed 2026 draft budgets for reductions with the Executive Office, Budget and Finance Departments
- ✓ Worked with IT Security and other tribal departments on implementation of new POS system hardware and software
- ✓ Participated on the Wayfinding Project Team to develop plan for the seven county service area
- ✓ Distributed LSSU athletic tickets for volleyball, basketball and hockey
- ✓ Established new beverage vendor in the facility to align with Kewadin Casino for better pricing



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Facility Operations

The **Building Operations Department** completed many tasks including the highlighted list below:

- ✓ Installed new counters in the Concessions area
- ✓ Replaced Turbo Air system in the walk-in cooler in the Concessions area
- ✓ Installed LED lights for special events in the Olympic rink
- ✓ Assembled portable stairs for use in the NHL rink for photographers
- ✓ Worked with the HVAC contractor on installation of the new dehumidifier system and completed the final walkthrough
- ✓ Joined the Refrigerating Engineers and Technicians Association (RETA) as a resource for the ice refrigeration equipment
- ✓ Collaborated with Sault Tribe Construction to secure snow removal from the upcoming season
- ✓ Installed rubber flooring in the elevator
- ✓ Installed ice on the NHL rink surface



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Retail Overview

The **Events Management** retail area sold a total of **738** accessories, including, tape, laces, pucks, mouthguards and also sharpened **185** pair of skates, totaling just over **\$5,130**.

The items are convenience items for facility patrons and are available to purchase anytime Reception is open or when an Events Coordinator is on-site.



The Concessions area is closed during the Summer season. On October 1, 2025, the **Concessions** area was leased to the Soo Eagles Booster club to provide food and beverage services to facility staff, tenants and patrons. The area is opened based on facility activity.

The facility retains the beverage vending machine sales. There were **963** bottled beverages sold during the reporting period. Total beverages sales were **\$2,155**.

Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Administrative Projects for 2026

The Recreation Division will be completing the administrative projects listed below:

- Implement additional programming for seniors, including cardio drumming and Stick N Puck
- Work with LSSU to implement registration for the summer athletic camps
- Collaborate with various recreation facilities and fitness centers to update Wellness and Recreation Guide
- Work with the Wayfinding Project Group to implement signage for the facility
- Meet with the Sault High Blue Devils and Soo Indians AAA hockey teams to plan upcoming season
- Establish summer operating hours
- Prepare 2027 draft budgets
- Work with the Planning Department to update strategic plan
- Begin planning for 30 year anniversary celebration of Big Bear Arena



September 27, 1996



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Maintenance Projects for 2026

The Recreation Division will be completing the maintenance projects listed below:

- Implement Maintenance Scheduling software
- Install new baby changing stations in various restrooms
- Remove cords and equipment for old surveillance system
- Begin installing LED lighting throughout the facility
- Remove the Olympic ice surface and begin seasonal maintenance
- Work with the Transportation Department to install fencing around the retention pond
- Work with the Purchasing Department to install fencing around the playground
- Replace shower heads in the women's fitness locker room
- Paint various restrooms throughout the facility
- Update the hospitality room with painting, blinds and cord management
- Work with contractor on snow removal from the roof
- Update restroom signage throughout the facility
- Complete the HVAC upgrade project



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Events for 2026

JANUARY

- 15 Parties/Celebrations Scheduled (January 1 to 31)
- Boy Scouts Holiday Party (January 2)
- Totzones (January 3 & 24)
- SMHA Board Meetings (January 5 & 26)
- Feeding America Food Distribution (January 8)
- Sault Tribe Natural Resource Meeting (January 8)
- Kewadin Wings Hockey Tournament (January 8 to 10)
- Brimley Schools Fun Day (January 9)
- Malcolm School Fun Day (January 9)
- Girl Scouts Cookie Rally (January 11)
- YEA Family STEM Night (January 16)
- Cabin Fever Hockey Tournament (January 16 to 18)
- Sault High Blue Devils vs. Alpena (January 16 & 17)
- Family Fun Day (January 23)
- Sault High Hockey Showcase (January 23 & 24)
- Reina Recycling Team Building (January 24)
- District 7 Hockey Tournament (January 30 to February 1)
- Soo Indians AAA vs. Compuware (January 31)



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Events for 2026 (Continued)

FEBRUARY

- 12 Parties/Celebrations Scheduled (February 1 to 28)
- Soo Indians AAA vs. Compuware (February 1)
- Sault High Blue Devils vs. TC Central (February 6)
- Sault High Blue Devils vs. Petoskey (February 7)
- Sault Tribe Snowshoe Event (February 10)
- Feeding America Food Distribution (February 12)
- Katie Robinson Showcase (February 13 to 15)
- Totzone (February 14)
- Cardio Drumming Classes (February 17 to May 26)
- Precision Edge Training (February 19)
- Sault Area Schools Fun Days (February 19 & 20)
- Reina Recycling Training (February 21)
- Michigan State Extension 4H Event (February 21)
- Soo Indians AAA vs. Sudbury (February 21 & 22)
- SMHA Board Meeting (February 23)
- Pickford Public Schools Fun Day (February 27)



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Events for 2026 (Continued)

MARCH

- 24 Parties/Celebrations Scheduled (March 1 to 31)
- MAHA State Midget JV Tournament (March 6 to 8)
- Feeding America Food Distribution (March 12)
- SMHA Travel Team Tournament (March 13 to 15)
- Totzone (March 14)
- Sault Tribe Health Lunch Samples (March 17)
- MyMichigan Family Day (March 21)
- Fundamental Skating Classes (March 23 to April 1)
- Sault Tribe Wildlife Training (March 26 to April 16)
- Whitefish Township School Fun Day (March 27)
- Family Fun Day (March 27)
- SMHA Board of Directors Meeting (March 30)



APRIL

- 13 Birthday Parties/Celebrations Scheduled (April 1 to 30)
- Sault Area Lacrosse Spring Sessions (April 7 to May 7)
- Hiawatha Skating Spring School (April 6 to June 18)
- Youth Spring League (April 6 to May 21)
- Feeding America Food Distribution (April 9)
- ACFS Family Fun Night (April 10)
- Les Cheneaux Schools Fun Day (April 17)
- Champion Force Stunt Clinic (April 18)
- Family Fun Day (April 24)
- Sault Area Schools Title IV Meeting (April 27)
- SMHA Board of Directors Meeting (April 27)
- Program Directors Meeting (April 29)

Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



Upcoming Events for 2026 (Continued)

MAY

- 22 Parties/Celebrations Scheduled (May 1 to 30)
- Senior Stick N Puck Program Begins (May 4)
- Soo Indians AAA Midget Tryouts (May 8 to 9)
- Meijer State Games Tryouts (May 9)
- Soo Area Soccer Association Meeting (May 11)
- Sault Area Middle School Fun Day
- Feeding America Food Distribution (May 14)
- Sault Tribe Behavioral Health Recovery Gala (May 15)
- Laura Stamm Power Skating (May 15 to 17)
- Sault Area Middle School Fun Day
- SMHA Board Meeting
- HSC Board Meeting
- Program Directors Meeting
- Soo Cooperative Preschool Graduation
- SMHA Travel Team Tryouts (May 28 to 30)
- Bay Mills Family Services Training



JUNE

- 1 Party/Celebration Scheduled (June 1 to 30)
- Brimley Schools Kindergarten Fun Day
- Early Childhood Graduation
- Hiawatha Behavioral Health Meeting
- Summer Recreation Staff Training
- Summer Recreation Program Open House
- Feeding American Food Distribution (June 11)
- Summer Recreation Program
- Hiawatha Figure Skating Testing Session
- SMHA Board of Directors Meeting



Recreation Division

Semi-Annual Report (July thru December 2025)



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